

# On the Nature of Disagreement:

Reformations Within

*After  
Martin Luther's '95 Theses'*



*EDITORS*

Tom Conaty & Seamus Cashman

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A modern day discourse with 95 contributions, presented in pamphlet form. The orientation is reform from within our own selves, sharing with others something vital that we have learned, or carried with us as nourishment for our souls.

The contributions are in the form of passages from the Bible, or other Holy Books or works drawn on for inspiration; or lines of a poem or a saying heard or composed by the contributor, with commentary.

This pamphlet, *Reformations Within: On the Nature of Disagreement* is a manual for living and a satnav mapping the wisdom of the local community for its readers.

## Preface

The 31st October 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In 1517AD, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg in Germany. The 95 theses was a bold critique of the sale of indulgences, whereby forgiveness for sins could be bought. Free passage to heaven could be secured, souls could be released from the halfway house of purgatory, on payment of a particular fee. Indeed, it was said that the sound of the coin hitting the bottom of the coffer signified the time of release. Such practice was corrupt and gave humans power over salvation. God was merely an onlooker. Luther, wrote his 95 Theses in Latin. He spoke out against this practice and offered a framework for discourse. It set him on a collision course with the Papacy, particularly Pope Leo X, a powerful member of the Medici Family, and he was summoned to the Diet of Worms to answer some questions. Luther's text was translated into German and was disseminated widely, due to the invention of the Printing Press by Gutenberg. It influenced many people in many countries. New church leaders emerged such as John Calvin, John Knox, Ulrich Zwingli and many others. Profound and lasting consequences reverberated from the singular act of a little known monk.

To commemorate this important event we have created this Pamphlet. It is a modern day discourse with 95 contributions containing quotes, poems, excerpts from Holy Books, amongst others that adults and children in the school, parish and local community carry with them as guides.

The sources are diverse and they are aimed at reflection and reform from within. Tetzl was the main salesman of indulgences then. He's still around selling his wares but albeit in a different guise. What do you buy? And what part of you is for sale?

Nailed to the door of Zion Church at a service on the 22nd October 2017, this Pamphlet was officially launched. Like the original '95 Theses' it will be circulated widely in print, and also online.

*Tom Conaty, Principal*

**Camillus Nolan**, Caretaker of Zion Parish School in Rathgar Dublin 6. My contribution is a passage from the Bible, Psalm 27:4 is as follows,

The one thing that I ask of the lord -the thing that I seek most —is to live in the house of the lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his temple.

The above psalm gives me great courage and inspiration knowing that there is light and hope at my journey's end.

**Tara Elliott**, Teacher

The wise old owl lived in the oak,  
The more he heard, the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke, the more he heard,  
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird.

*Anonymous*

My favourite nursery rhyme growing up. I remember being fascinated by the image of the little bird, tucked away safely in his hole, big round eyes looking out, absorbing the world around him. When I was older my mum taught me the most important lesson her father taught her: "Spoken words can never be taken back. Be careful how you use them."

**Michael Hinds**, Parent

95 problems but my soul ain't one,  
If you got God problems I feel bad for you son.

**Nathan Barber**, Employee Experience Specialist, Indeed.com (Former Zion Pupil, class of 1999.)

"Careful now... Down with this sort of thing." — Father Ted

The above quote comes from Father Ted, arguably one of my generations most quoted TV shows. For me, this quote symbolises the control and censorship of the Catholic Church from "Old Ireland". It symbolises how far we have come and how comedy is such a central social commentary in Ireland. Its use both in Ireland and abroad shows how far reaching Ireland's rebellious nature and influence can be felt.

**Kalichi James Donahue**, Tai Chi, Movement & Music Teacher.  
Facilitator of The Cosmos of the Body project at Zion Parish N.S.

“The impetus for social healing has always to be, in the direction of its movement, from within outwards . . . we cannot do good unless we are good. We cannot bring peace to the sorrowful world around us unless there is peace in our own hearts.” *From, ‘How Do We Enter the Heart?’ by Kallistos Ware.*

In this age of distraction, the passage from Bishop Kallistos is a reminder of the centrality of embracing Christ’s command, “Seek first the Kingdom of God”.

**Daphne Hosford**, Parent

Be the flower that gives its fragrance  
even to the hand that crushes it.

Ali ibn Abi Talib

This is from Islam but I think it's a very good image to explain to children that forgiveness is hard sometimes but you still have to forgive.

**Brian Hunt**, Director and Tour Leader,  
[www.flavourofthecamino.ie](http://www.flavourofthecamino.ie)

A little church in the valley,  
A respite from all I shall do,  
A place to meet new friends and old,  
A time, all too short, spent with you.  
Go on and make your Camino,  
Go each step as though it's your last,  
Go forward - not looking backward,  
Go into your future - not your past.

I found this poem in a visitor’s book whilst walking the Camino. It equates the trials and tribulations of the Camino to life itself. The poem’s message of living life with an optimistic outlook, inspires me.

**Jasmina Paic Brophy**, Pupil

Have a happy heart for a happy life

**John F. Deane**, Poet

*Crocus: A Brief History*

The crocus opens out to something  
more than crocus, becomes a brief history  
of time, the ology of cosmos, as a poem is –  
impacted yellow of gold-dust, shape  
of a baby-thumb all-tentative, prelude to a new year;  
breath of fire from the dark earth, from the closed heart;  
the rose-coloured: flush of love,  
signature of the overture: – these sudden, these small  
preliminaries – polyphony of crocus – demi-semi-quavers  
of what will be an oratorio  
of hollyhock, lupin, sunflower,  
under the gold-full baton of the light.

This poem holds for me the whole of cosmic life and hope. It fights Luther's pessimism over the human heart.

**Deirdre Hoey**, Mum, golfer and artist

"For when the One Great Scorer comes  
To mark against your name,  
He writes - not that you won or lost  
But how you played the Game."

These are the final lines of a 1908 American football poem called "Alumnus Football" by Grantland Rice. Rice was a golfer and when I first came across this quote I believed it to be about the game of golf which I love. The game has taught me many things - humility, respect, honour, acceptance, honesty, mindfulness, friendship, tradition and history - and the quote captures that spirit for me.

**Fern Mullen**. Resource Teacher ZPPS

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.

*Proverbs Ch3 vs 5-6. NLT*

As a child my grandmother gave me a bookmark with this verse written on it. I have always been relieved that I don't have to depend on my understanding, which is limited, but on the Lord's, which is limitless! Trusting and seeking His will in, and for my life has not always been easy but the inner peace I experience when I trust Him is immeasurable.

**Sue Barber** – Administrator, Lactation Consultant, Mum, Wife & friend

‘Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill’

– attributed to many sources, most recently David Brent, the fictional middle-manager from *The Office*.

As a mum of young adults this has saved my bacon on more than one occasion. I was given it as a fridge magnet by a good friend at a time when I needed it most. The turbulent teens progressed to mature adult relationships with my children and it was a sense of humour that kept us all sane – plus a healthy dose of maternal treachery!

**Pearl Murphy**, Volunteer with the SVP

“You Teach People How to Treat You  
By what you allow  
What you stop and  
What you reinforce” —Tony Gaskins

As a volunteer I come across people who have fallen on hard times. We offer practical help and advice, a friendly ear in a confidential, non-judgemental spirit, based on the needs of the individual or family seeking help. We promote and assist them towards long-term self-sufficiency in a relationship of friendship, trust and confidentiality. We listen to their stories and the difficulties they experience and we share the ‘wisdom’ and ‘inspiration’ acquired over the years

**Ava Deacon**, Pupil

"Strength does not come from the limbs  
but from a willing heart"



**Lynn Turkington**, Parent; Director, International Event Management

Two of my favourite quotes from A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*. They have a real innocent meaning, childlike, and that is why they are so special.

“How do you spell 'love'?” – Piglet

“You don't spell it...you feel it.” – Pooh”

“If you only live to be 100 than I want to live to be 100 minus one day so I never have to live without you.” from *Winnie the Pooh*

**Daragh Bradish** – Poet

And as I watch the drops of rain / Weave their weary paths  
and die / I know that I am like the rain/ There but for the  
grace of you go I. —*Paul Simon*

This knowledge is a form of grace. As a child, watching the rain on the glass, I knew the little girl who lived opposite would not be out to play. I remember being saddened by this first awareness of small. Perhaps the beginning of a poetic vision, now I understand it as sacramental vision, a term I just love using, and an unfortunate conversation stopper. We should be talking more.

**Henry Seward**. Parent, Carpenter.

The main problem with this great obsession for saving time is very simple: you can't save time. You can only spend it. But you can spend it wisely or foolishly.

Benjamin Hoff, *The Tao of Pooh*.

The reason that I like this quote is because we all only have a limited amount of time available to us and much as we might like to slow down the inevitable march of time the only thing we can do is to ensure that we use our time as productively as possible.

Two quotes that I have taken to heart and guide me in my everyday life:

**Ruby Nicholl**, Pupil

“If you love life, life will love you back.” Arthur Rubinstein

## **Kim Reichental, Parishioner**

“When someone shows you who they are believe them; the first time.” — Maya Angelou (Poet)

Advice Maya Angelou gave to Oprah Winfrey. It resonated with me and its wisdom has become more evident over time. It is how people act that speaks to who someone truly is. We do well to listen to what actions tell us and believe that, rather than be continually disappointed waiting for them to change.

"You have to pay your bills, but you don't have to worry about paying your bills." Eckhart Tolle

We have to act and deal with challenges, but we have a choice whether to waste time worrying about them.

## **Iain Barber, Parishioner**

Patience is a virtue, have it if you can.  
Seldom in a woman, never in a man.

1960's — Zhou Enlai, a renowned historian was visiting France. Questioned, “After 200 years, what is the result of the French Revolution.” “Much too soon to say”.

1027 — Sitric of Dublin, received Dunan, first bishop of Dublin under the See of Canterbury.

1534 Henry VIII became Protestant. English influence in Ireland was confined to Dublin. Ireland favoured Rome over Armagh and Canterbury, leading to ongoing English influence in Ireland.

Modern culture demands instant explanations. 500 years to have an effect – historians must be patient.

## **The Gleeson Family**

We had ‘Scaffolding’ by Seamus Heaney read at our wedding so it is a poem that is close to my heart. It can be relevant to school life and community relationships also, about support for one another, and building "sure and solid" grounding! Some lines:

Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points, / Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.

And yet all this comes down when the job's done / Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.

But we can then do without the scaffolding, ‘Confident that we have built our wall.’

**Rev. Niall R Stratford** — Former Taney Deanery Priest in Zion

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
praise his holy name.*

*Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."*

Psalm 103 (Verse 1& 2)

These verses from the Book of Psalms have been an inspiration to me during many years - particularly while I walk alone and survey the wonders of creation. May they be a source of reassurance to one and all who read them or utter them aloud.

**The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson,**  
Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough  
Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan

*St Matthew 25* where St Matthew describes Jesus as The Judge.

What impresses me about this passage when read in its totality is that we are often capable of making ourselves unaware of the impact and outcomes of our actions both before God and before our neighbours. The combination of responsibility to God and to neighbour is fundamental to the Jewish and the Christian Faiths. Unselfconscious acts of kindness done by people who did not know they were doing them gives me hope and always show me that as well as being inside the church building the values and principles of the church are outside the church building as well.

**Emma McGahey** – Teacher

***Enjoy***

Enjoy every moment of every day  
Take your time to go out and play

Enjoy the time when all goes well  
And when it's bad, do not dwell

Enjoy every heartbeat your heart can give  
Make it count, for as long as you live

Enjoy the things you like, endure what you do not  
Count your blessing, there are a lot

Enjoy the love of the people around you  
Pick yourself up when you are feeling blue

Enjoy every smile, each splinter of fun  
Enjoy your life, you only get one

**Dodie O'Brien**, Healer Prayer Union, Zion Parish

*Phillippians 4: 6-7: New International Version{NIV}*

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This extract from the Bible was sent to someone in hospital who faced months of uncertainty as to the final outcome. It gave comfort and allowed them to share their burden.

**Mark Granier**, Poet

**In The Name**

of the blue tip  
night-splitter  
dew-beater  
flimshift  
creak-of-first-light  
rise for us.

In the name of  
the song-scatterer  
overrim  
day-tilt  
hemlift  
star-thinner  
all rise.

Robert MacFarlane tweeted, as his word of the day, 'dew-beater' (one who enjoys walking early in the morning) and asked for other names for sunrise, so I made up some. I was thinking of Montague's sensual prayer to nature / womanhood, 'For The Hill Mother': 'Hinge of silence / creak for us / Rose of darkness /unfold for us...'

Mark Granier's fifth collection, *Ghostlight: New & Selected Poems* was published by Salmon Poetry in May, 2017.

**Caoimhe Walsh & family**

I will do the best I can, from whence I come, without expectation.

**Kate Hunter**, Parent

From 'The Life of a Day' by Tom Hennen

Like people or dogs, each day is unique and has its own  
personality quirks which can easily be seen if you look closely.  
But there are so few days ... .. they just pass, mostly unnoticed,  
... ..We examine each day before us with barely a glance...

From a poem in Garrison Keillor's **Good Poems**, bought at a particular stage in life when there was time to muse and read poetry! A reminder that, despite the madness of things, most days are good days.

**Carol Revington**, Primary Teacher (ex Zion!)

Here are some words I like:

"KIND WORDS ARE A GIFT.  
THEY CREATE WEALTH IN THE HEART"

*Source: How To Train A Wild Elephant & Other Adventures in Mindfulness.* Jan Chozen Bays M.D. Shambhala, 2011. This book is readily available and I enjoy keeping it on my bookshelf!

**Philip McKinley** – Parent and Pastor

'Be still, and know that I am God' *Psalm 46:10*

Every word is dripping in life-long meaning: 'Be', 'Still', 'Know' 'I', 'Am', 'God'...

**Nigel Kendrick**, Parent of Oliver Kendrick 6th class Zion

I was following a TV programme given by Professor Brian Cox called 'Wonders of the Universe'. He explained how we were all created from stars. I was looking for something which resonated with this and found this extract from the ancient Hindu Scripture - Upanishad.

Now that light which shines above this  
heaven, higher than all, higher than  
everything, in the highest world, beyond  
which there are no other worlds, that is the  
same light which is within man.

— *Chandogya Upanishad 3.13.7*

**Erica Merriman, Pupil**

Unless your name is Google, stop acting like you know everything

**My name is Catherine** and I'm a mum, writer, filmmaker and doula. I'm both self-employed and a stay-at-home mum.

I've realised that when I'm losing faith, it's usually in the patriarchy, not in God – when I'm at a low point I still don't feel like I'm an atheist. So here's part of what I visualise to feel better:

I find solace when I visualise God as a woman.  
With dark brown skin. Pregnant.  
Sometimes She's just given birth.  
Her baby lying on Her chest, skin-to-skin.  
Sometimes She's feeding her newborn.  
Or holding Her toddler close.  
Kissing their forehead.  
Stroking their hair.  
Rocking them to sleep.  
Because God is love after all ... isn't She?

**Helen James, Parent & Designer**

"Don't seek happiness. If you seek it, you won't find it, because seeking is the antithesis of happiness. Happiness is ever elusive, but freedom from unhappiness is attainable now, by facing what IS rather than making up stories about it. Unhappiness covers up your natural state of well being and inner peace, the true source of happiness"

From *A new earth* by Eckhart Tolle

Tolle tells us to remove our ego and search for our being. That in changing the way we perceive the world we change the way we react, live and move through it. The power is in you now.

**Michael Binchy, Pupil**

Anyone, anytime, any place can do anything.

I thought of this after I watched Poorna, a film about an Indian girl who makes the summit of Mount Everest at the age of 13.

**Jane Norton, Parent**

My mother wrote this poem hoping that if it even touches just one person, it might change their train of thought and she hoped could possibly save lives. Just three of the nine verses:

**The many faces of God.**

I wonder does our God have many different faces  
That cater for all Religion  
That spans all nations

An invisible God only revealed to us  
By our own interpretations  
Each of us carrying the same belief  
That we are God's special creation

A god that speaks to us  
Through a book of words  
Which incites many of his subjects  
To reek havoc in the world ... ..

**Ivan Pearson, Principal, Rathgar NS**

"Life is a mystery, everyone must stand alone,  
I hear you call my name and it feels like home."

These lyrics come from the song "Like a Prayer" by Madonna. It reminds me of growing up through my teenage years, long before computers, the internet and mobile phones! A time more simple, where you listened to the radio for hours just to hear your favourite song or watched *Top of the Pops* religiously every week. Where music released was seen as an event, not like the disposable nature of here today, gone tomorrow!

**Marta Correale, Parent**

From a marriage fable in Gibran's *The Prophet*:

'Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.  
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.  
And stand together yet not too near together:  
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,  
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

I first came across this fable printed in a wedding service booklet. It resonated with me; years later I included it in my own wedding

ceremony. The image of the temple is beautiful and empowering ... how important to give yourself and the other space to flourish...

**Florrie Walsh, Pupil**

You're beautiful,  
You're one of a kind,  
Smile more.

*Roman Attwood, YouTube personality, comedian, vlogger and pranker*

**Seamus Cashman, Poet**

This body of mine confuses me — and sometimes you.  
It shoulders all I need, it reseeded, shaped and struck  
a pose for survival schooled on this for'm we hold  
firm.  
We have no other one. Though I might sculpt me  
better.

From *The Sistine Gaze: I too begin with scaffolding* (2015): some thoughts as Michelangelo (in the poem) meditates while planning his famous Sistine Ceiling & Last Judgement Wall fresco portrayals of the human body *via* the biblical Creation of mankind. The ceiling was completed in October 1512, one year before Martin Luther's 95 theses were posted.

**The Paic – Brophy Family**

This Walt Whitman poem, inscribed on Jasmina's baptism certificate. was read during the ceremony in 2007 — the best advice to live by:

Love the earth, the sun and the animals;  
Despise riches simply for their own sake;  
Be generous towards those who ask things of you;  
Stand up for the rights of those weaker  
or poorer or less fortunate than you;  
Mix freely with all sorts of people, educated  
or uneducated, young or old.  
Hate all forms of tyranny;  
Don't allow anyone or  
anything to make you feel inferior;



Examine carefully anything you are told  
at school or church or read in a book  
And question whatever seems to insult your soul.

**Ned Poole**, Pupil

‘What you want, you don’t need.’ *Winston Churchill*

**Rebecca Webb**, Parent

The Luther Limerick

There was a young scholar called Martin,  
With the Church, he was wholly disheartened.  
He nailed up his theses  
Insisting that Jesus  
Alone, could grant sinners their pardons.

**Margaret Healion**, Diocesan Reader, Zion Parish.

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am  
only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?

*Hillel (110BC-10AD) Pirkei Avot, 1:14*

The two selves of ‘I’ and ‘me’, one connected to God and made in the image of God; ‘me’ the self we become over a lifetime. They had better match-up at the end because they can and that is what life is all about.

It is also about how I am to others. Begin by caring for oneself, then you can love others...

**Aislinn King**, Pupil

You may not have won, but you tried and that’s still a win.

**Mary Donaghy**, Parent & Civil Servant.

Almost 17 years ago, I came across a passage by Charles Swindoll, US evangelical Christian pastor. I have it on the wall of my workplace – whenever the going gets tough, I pause to read the quote. A brief extract:

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude ... is more important than facts ... than the past, the education, the money ... It will make or break a company... a church... a home ... We cannot change our past ... .. we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

### **The Nicholl Family**

Opportunity dances with those who are already on the dancefloor

*H Jackson Brown Jnr.*

### **Mary Kendrick, Mother of Oliver Kendrick**

My mother always had this reflection on a card in her prayer book. As a child I often heard it mentioned. It continues to have meaning for me.

God grant me the Serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can  
and Wisdom to know the difference.

*Source: American Theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr (1882 - 1971)*

### **Aoife Mountford, Zion Parish Primary School**

“Hey!  
I’m not giving up today  
There’s nothing getting in my way  
And if you knock-knock me over  
I will get back up again.  
If something goes a little wrong  
Well you can go ahead and bring it on  
‘Cause if you knock-knock me over  
I will get back up again.”

*[Source: Anna Kendrick Lyrics, from the movie Trolls.]*

Why I carry this with me: When we are trying to get something that we really want to do, and we can’t do it, we can listen to that song. You can’t give up. Your brain and body are there to help you.

**Brenda Mackin-Millar**, Mother/Business Person, Lecturer

**'Angels in my hair' by Lorna Byrne**

Prayer of thy Healing Angels  
That is carried from God By Michael thy Archangel  
Pour out thy healing Angels  
Thy Heavenly Host upon me  
and upon those that I love,  
Let me feel the beam of thy  
healing Angels upon me,  
The light of your healing hands  
And I will let thy healing begin  
Whatever way God wants it  
Amen

I carry this prayer with me as a reminder of the guidance & solace that 'Angels in my hair' provided to me following a diagnosis we received for our 5 year old daughter.

**Anna Hoey**, Pupil

'Don't go on worrying about things  
that haven't happened yet'

I think this is important for everyone to know because if you spend everyday feeling anxious, just because you're worried about something that might not even happen. It makes you feel sick in your tummy and wastes lots of energy on worrying about something that may never happen.

**Stephen Empey**, Parent

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But  
the greatest of these is love." *1 Corinthians 13:13*

It's so easy to get caught up in our everyday lives but this short verse helps to centre us, to remind ourselves of what truly is important.

**Sam Nicholl**, Pupil

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible!"

*Audrey Hepburn*

**Catherine Ann Cullen, Writer**

I don't have a poem or Bible verse to live by, so I thought I'd scribble down my own in the form of to-do lists that I stick on my fridge – and don't always get through.)

*To-Do List for Reformation*

Start with your heart:	Put yourself second,
pin your note to a door	put yourself third.
that opens out.	Let other people
Take less, give more.	have the last word.
Can't: buy forgiveness	Make things to share:
Can: make amends	food, music, art.
Go with your gut –	Forming, reforming,
your doubts are your friends.	start with your heart.

**David & Shuna Hutchinson Edgar, Teachers**

*David: Mercy triumphs over judgement (Letter of James, chapter 2, verse 13)*

**Mercy.**

Lifting up the one who has stumbled.  
Lifting up with gentleness.  
Not pity, not patronising,  
No reproaches.  
Setting stumbled feet to rights  
With gentleness.  
To stand on the level again,  
To walk, run, climb again.  
To believe again  
That to walk, run and climb is possible.

*Shuna: I think a lot of the Dicken's story 'A Christmas Carol' as one of the most profound for Christmas, and I love the following quote from Marley to Scrooge:*

"Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!

I also love when Scrooge's nephew talks of Christmas as a time when people open their 'shut up hearts' to others.

**Freya Fitzpatrick O'Doherty, Pupil**

I heard this from my soccer coach, Anthony.

An experience is an experience,  
If it is bad or good, it is still an experience.

**Nathan Hutchinson Edgar, Past Pupil**

*Leonard Cohen— From: 'God Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot'*

They came to God in secret  
And though they left Him nourished  
They would not tell who healed  
Though mountains danced before them  
They said that God was dead  
Though his shrouds were hoisted  
The naked God did live  
This I mean to whisper to my mind  
This I mean to laugh within my mind  
This I mean my mind to serve ...

**Pat Boran, Poet and publisher, Dedalus Press**

We cannot be sure that god exists, but there is a hill not far from my house where on a clear day it's possible to see far beyond the local weather of the self.

**Max Laverty, Pupil**

***"Treat others how you want to be treated"***

Mrs O'Brien said this, and it tells you to be nice to everyone, because then they'll be nice to you.

**Tirzah Hutchinson Edgar, Past Pupil**

'The Little Match Girl' by Hans Christian Anderson. I chose this passage from 'The Little Match Girl' for the project, I like it because it is both happy and sad at the same time.

'And the matches shone with such a radiance that it was brighter than the light of day. Never before had grandmother been so beautiful, so big. She lifted up the little girl in her arms, and in radiance and rejoicing they flew so high, so high. And there was no cold, no hunger, no fear--they were with God.'

**Paul Bregazzi** ~ Primary School Teacher

*Masakatsu agatsu, katsuhiyabi* — ‘Self Victory is True Victory. Let it be now!’ The phrase is associated with Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of the non-violent Japanese martial art of Aikido, sometimes called, ‘the way of Peace’.

I read in a commentary on Luther’s theses that the individual must constantly repent – a parallel to O Sensei’s exhortation that ‘Aikido is not for correcting others - it is for correcting your own mind’.

Many people seem intent on perfecting others, when clearly we each have a lot of polishing of the self to do. Let it be now!

**Gerard Smyth**, Poet

Once, out in a country field at night,  
I saw stars in numbers I could not count,  
constellations held in balance:  
some only birthing, some close to extinction.  
There was moonshine on the billowing grass  
and on stubble that remained after the harvest.  
Was it all by chance, a cosmic accident?  
That summer night I was too young to ask  
a question so profound  
but looking at the firmament, standing in clover  
I sensed that it was still the sixth day of creation,  
the gardener still cultivating  
root and branch of the Tree of Knowledge;  
his fingerprints on every fossil,  
his radiance renewing itself with every supernova.

**The Rev'd. Stephen A. Farrell** M.A. (Oxon), B.Th., LL.M.,  
Rector, Zion Parish

*‘Ecclesia semper reformanda est’.*

The Church must always be reformed. Sometimes ascribed to Saint Augustine, the phrase was popularised in the twentieth century by Karl Barth. A central plea of the reformation and of today is that the church needs to continually re-examine itself to ensure that its doctrines and practices conform to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. We are not called to reflect the values of previous generations, but to strive to be more like Jesus.

**Fred Hendley**, Pupil – written by his mum

*Extracts from: LESSONS FROM OUR CHILDREN Written by Catherine Little*

Always hug with both arms  
Love everything  
Give hugs your full attention – grind your teeth  
if you have to

Spiders are even cuter if they have furry legs  
And snails have smiley mouths  
Every little insect deserves a name

Live in the present  
Watch ants  
Savour every moment you spend pressing buttons

Try to touch the clouds with your feet  
Climb anything that sticks out of the ground  
Make a run for every staircase you can

Learn to understand the value of dirt ... ..

**The McKinley Family** – The Garden of Eden—A Garden of Delight

*“Then God took the human who had been made from the dust of the earth and from the Divine Breath, and comforted him in the Garden-of-Delight”*

Paraphrased from the Hebrew text of Genesis 2.15. The word ‘eden’ in Hebrew means ‘delight’. These words offer a beautiful picture not just of sacred beginnings, but of a sacred future ... Can this become a vision for our society? The texts asks us – how can we make where we live, our neighbourhoods, our communities our schools, Gardens of Delight?

**Millie Redmond**, Pupil

Be who you are, and say what you feel.

Because those who mind don’t matter  
and those who matter don’t mind.

*Aíne Fitzsimmons – my mum*

**Mervyn Mc Dowell**, Teacher, Zion School.

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. ... ..”

This holds very true to me in my life.

**Alice Luce**, piano teacher

“*Αιεν αριστευειν*” – “*Μηδεν αγαν*” – “*Γνωθι σεαυτον*”

“Ever to excel” – “Nothing in excess” – “Know thyself”

My father taught me this trio of ancient Greek sayings.

“*Αιεν αριστευειν*” appears in book 6 of Homer’s *Iliad*. We can’t all excel at everything, but we can always try to do our best.

The other two aphorisms were engraved on the temple of Apollo at Delphi. I often come back to “*Μηδεν αγαν*” as a guiding principle of moderation.

“*Γνωθι σεαυτον*” can be both humbling and inspiring. If we understand ourselves and how we change, we can better appreciate how change is possible.

**Susan Moloney**, *School Mum*

If no use is made of the labours of past ages, the world must remain always in the infancy of knowledge. —*Cicero*

Cicero was a Roman politician and lawyer and coincidentally one of his great admirers was Martin Luther. His ideas greatly influenced European literature and culture.

I came across this quote in a book titled *From Failing Hands, The Story of Presidential Succession* by John D. Feerick. He was also responsible for the composition of the 25th Amendment to the US Constitution which allows the President's cabinet to remove him from power, in the event of him being mentally unwell!



**Siraj Zaidi, Parent**

A verse from: *The Holy book of Quran.*

Sometimes Allah (God) talks to mankind... referring to the time of the day . This passage is a short Surah ( verse) called Al- ASR(Late Afternoon time).

‘By the time. Verily Man is in loss, except those who believe and do righteous good deeds, and recommend one another to patience.

*Surah Al –Asr*

**McAdam Kavanagh family**

This above all: to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

*Hamlet I.III – Shakespeare*

Scholars say that Polonius's advice to his son Laertes is actually quite self-interested i.e. look after yourself first. We prefer to believe the interpretation: be true to who you are and that will help you be true to others.

It takes courage to be who you truly are and not what society, your pals, colleagues or even family may expect you to be. This quote is our inspiration and our aspiration.

**Aileen Sexton, Teacher**

An extract from ‘Postscript’ by Seamus Heaney, a poem with the magic of one of my favourite walks:

‘And some time make the time to drive out west  
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,  
In September or October, when the wind  
And the light are working off each other  
So that the ocean on one side is wild  
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones  
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit  
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans...’

Then, the final line, ‘And catch the heart off guard and blow it open’, sums up perfectly the feeling you get when you are looking across at Galway Bay... ..

**Louella Morton, Parent**

"You must learn to walk to the edge of the light, and then a few steps into the darkness; then the light will appear and show the way before you."

Some years ago when I was faced with some difficult decisions, my Dad gave me a small card with this wording on it, I believe from the *Book of Mormon*. His message of resilience and to have the confidence and courage to move forward into the unknown was a wonderful support and is a continual point of reference in my life. That prized possession is kept very safely in my desk.

**Hannah Lee, Parishioner**

"It's better to be five minutes late in this world than fifty years early in the next."

Kate McCarthy, a kind and wise neighbour in West Cork, used to say this to me when I was learning to drive and I frequently find myself saying the same thing when my son takes off in the car.

**Jack O'Brien, Parishioner**

My few lines would be the last three stanzas from 'Psalm of Life' by Longfellow.

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing  
Learn to labor and to wait

I find them inspiring. The last verse, I believe, would be a good mantra for anyone to follow.

**Oliver Kendrick, Pupil**

I choose this extract from 'IF' a poem by Rudyard Kipling.

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master,  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same.

**Spencer Glover, Parent**

We (with Honey 5 & Daisy 3) took our passage from *The Bible for Children*. They chose Cain and Abel. Honey loves goats, so thought Cain was right. Daisy chose Peas, so thought Abel was right.

Their favourite passage was

*"How should I know? Am I my brother's keeper?"*

—words that symbolise an unwillingness to accept responsibility for other people's actions. For 2 little sisters who often bicker, and who's first thought when anything happens is to blame the actions of the other one, it was nice to see them agree on something. They get on quite well really!!!

**Sam & Sarah Smyth, Father and daughter**

"Sometimes you have accept that you can't win all of  
the time "

This is from Lionel Messi inspired by my enthusiasm for football and the lesson that winning is not everything

**Emma Dunn, Parent & Special Needs Assistant, Zion School**

A grandfather is talking with his grandson and he says there are two wolves inside of us which are always at war with each other. One of them is a good wolf which represents things like kindness, bravery and love. The other is a bad wolf, which represents things like greed, hatred and fear.

The grandson stops and thinks about it for a second then he looks up at his grandfather and says,

“Grandfather, which one wins?”

The grandfather quietly replies, “The one you feed.”

**Philip Newsome**, Parent & Civil Servant

'Preserve the seed, keep faith with the light and the spirit. There are very few of you, but you may be the salt of the earth'.

— *Herman Hesse, Letter to a young German (1946)*

These words are from a letter from Herman Hesse in 1946 calling on a new generation in Germany to embrace internationalism and pacifism in the aftermath of WW2. The words make me think that it only takes a few for there to be hope, even if all else seems lost.

**Finn Conaty**, Past Pupil

"Every silver lining has a touch of grey".

*'Touch of Grey' by the Grateful Dead.*

I like this quote as there are two sides to every story.

**Dave Campbell**, Wildlife Photographer

*Reflections of Henry Beston received from Barry Gilbert, Professor of Ursine Biology, Utah; a survivor of a Grizzly Bear maul (he always said it was his fault).*

We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth.

**Jasbinder Garnermann**, Chairwoman, C.G. Jung Centre, All-Ireland Centre for Jungian Studies

*OUR DAILY BREAD*

We think of God as something lofty and unattainable. But in fact God is very close to us, sustaining us on every level of our lives and being, under every condition, in every circumstance, at every stage of our lives from the lowest to the highest. God's love meets our most fundamental needs, and when we allow it to become integral to our existence we see that it is as necessary, basic, and familiar as our daily bread. And this is also the spirit in which we need to seek that love.

**Richard Davies**, Vice Principal, The High School

This sign I have outside my office is an ever-present reminder of what is most important:

*Roald Dahl*: “I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else.

*BBC Interviewer* (1988): Or brains even?

*Roald Dahl*: Oh gosh, yes, brains are one of the least. You can be a lovely person without brains, absolutely lovely. Kindness – that simple word. To be kind – it covers everything to my mind. If you're kind that's it.

**Elia Ross**, Pupil

"Those who love themselves are bright and joyful, but those who hate themselves are dull and sad."

Hope you like my saying! It just came out of my head :)

**Dennis Campbell**, Margaret Healion's *Dog...*

*... would like to say,*

'Make friends with animals that've got thumbs'

**Siobhan Ogilvy**, parent in Zion School

“In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth, or to step back into safety.” *Abraham Maslow*

When faced by any challenging situation, like a difficult job or project, I think of this phrase to remind myself that I will learn and develop as a person if I take it on and do it as well as I can, instead of stepping back into “safety” by avoiding it.

**Cameron McKinley**, pupil

*Time*

We use it, wisely or not. We fill it and we mark it.  
We try to stop it, but there is no end to it.  
And yet, there never is enough.

It is a circle. It is a line.

Always starting, never finished, we live always in the  
in-between.

No time. We say, we have no time. Yet, we have all the  
time in the world.

And there is no time,  
Like Now."

From *The Days Between* by Marcia Falk, poems and blessings for  
Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and was given to my mom by  
my great-grandmother.

**Matthew Hartung**, Pupil

"Money can't buy you life"

I like this because these were the last words spoken by Bob Marley  
and even though he was so rich he couldn't survive the cancer  
which started in his big toe.

**Ailish McDonnell**, Past S.N.A. Zion Parish Primary School

This poem epitomises me. I want to be remembered just as I am!  
Talk about me, laugh about me but don't forget me.

Death is nothing at all. / I have only slipped away to the next  
room. / I am I and you are you. ... / Call me by my old  
familiar name.... ... Laugh as we always laughed ... ... Play,  
smile, think of me. Pray for me. ... ... Life means all that it  
ever meant. ... ... Why should I be out of mind because I am  
out of sight?

*From 'All is well' by Henry Scott Holland*

**Esmé Donaghy**, Pupil

What my swimming coach said to me:

Ever try?

Ever fail?

Try, try, try again

Fail, fail better.

**Eoghan Murphy** TD. Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

"Public business my son, must always be done by somebody.— it will be done by somebody or other — If wise men decline it others will not: if honest men refuse it, others will not."

*John Adams, letter to his son Thomas, September 1789.*

For me this quote captures the essence of that duty we all have to something bigger than ourselves, our duty to the public good, however we choose to define it.

Someone has to think of the good of others, if not you, then who?

**Chris Binchy**, Parent & Writer

*Mistrust all in whom the urge to punish is strong.*

The quote is from Nietzsche. I came across it in 2003 when people were suggesting that the world had changed so radically that dialogue was pointless, that old principles and values needed to be put aside, and that immediate retribution was required. It didn't go well. I can feel in myself the pull of the idea that certain difficult situations could be resolved quicker with harsher behaviour, but there's nearly always a better, harder way.

**Hilary Turkington**, Florrie's Granny

No-one wants to talk to moaners.

**Katherine Stafford**, writer. Representative of the Progressive Synagogue.

*Rabbi Hillel and the Golden Rule*

Once there was a gentile who came before Shammai, and said to him: "Convert me on the condition that you can teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot." Shammai pushed him aside with the measuring stick he was holding. The same fellow came before Rabbi Hillel, and Hillel converted him saying: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow, this is the whole Torah, and the rest is commentary. Go and learn it."

*Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31 a.*

The apostle Paul was a pupil of Gamaliel, Hillel's grandson, and the saying was popular in Palestine; Jesus would nearly certainly have come across it.

**Emily Nevin**, Past learning Support Teacher, Zion School

*Old Irish saying:*

Grá, dílseacht, cáirdeas      *love, loyalty & friendship*

**Tom Conaty**, Principal, Zion Parish Primary School, and Poet

"It's not that but this." — my mother's utterance coming out of daytime reverie and a cup of tea.

*"Up we get and on we go."*

*From Mother Courage and Her Children,*

*Bertholt Brecht.*

When all was falling apart in the Thirty Years' War of 1618–1648, Mother Courage was selling memorabilia. Even after the death of her children, she would stand between the shafts of her cart, lift them high and incant, 'Up we get and on we go'.

I have said this many times to myself.

### **Tedzel is in town again**

A For-Sale sign

on our heads.

Our own best auctioneers.

Is that all we have now in the room,

Ladies and Gentlemen?

No further bids?

And I'm selling

Going once... Going ...



## *Notes*

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## **On the Nature of Disagreement: Reformations Within**

Luther wrote out his '95 Theses' as a set of 'disputations'. They were departure points for discourse. For such discourse in recent times, NYT Op-Ed columnist Bret Stephens sets out the terrain with these words:

To listen and understand; to question and disagree; to treat no proposition as sacred and no objection as impious; to be willing to entertain unpopular ideas and cultivate the habits of an open mind.

His essay, titled 'The Dying Art of Disagreement' continues,  
Socrates quarrels with Homer. Aristotle quarrels with Plato. Locke quarrels with Hobbes and Rousseau quarrels with them both. Nietzsche quarrels with everyone. Wittgenstein quarrels with himself.

*On the Nature of Disagreement: Reformations Within* opens a space for disputation, for disagreement and for discourse, and will extend the conversation on 'reformations within' this time next year in a public forum open to all.

*All contributions received from the purchase of this Pamphlet  
will go to fund the continuation of this conversation.*

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